

IN THE CLAIMS:

Delete original claims 55 and 75.

Amend claims 16, 17, 25, 31, 32, 43, 44, 52, 64, 65, and 73 to read as follows  
[attached is an Appendix including a marked up version of the amended claims showing the  
differences between the claims as originally filed, and the claims as hereby amended]:

16. (Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the selected code words consist of  
seventeen different TMDS code words, including at least one TMDS code word used only as  
a guard band word.

BS  
17. (Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the selected code words consist of  
seventeen different, transition-minimized TMDS code words, including at least one  
transition-minimized TMDS code word used only as a guard band word.

Bp  
25. (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein each of the selected code words is  
indicative of a sequence of L binary bits, and the selected code words have fewer contiguous  
zero bits and contiguous one bits per code word on the average than do the code words of the  
full code word set excluding the selected code words.

Bn  
31. (Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein the selected code words consist of  
seventeen different TMDS code words, including at least one TMDS code word used only as  
a guard band word.

32. (Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein the selected code words consist of  
seventeen, different, transition-minimized TMDS code words, including at least one  
transition-minimized TMDS code word used only as a guard band word.

43. (Amended) The transmitter of claim 34, wherein the serial link is a TMDS link, and the selected code words consist of seventeen different TMDS code words, including at least one TMDS code word used only as a guard band word.

44. (Amended) The transmitter of claim 43, wherein the selected code words consist of seventeen different, transition-minimized TMDS code words, including at least one transition-minimized TMDS code word used only as the guard band word.

52. (Amended) The transmitter of claim 33, wherein each of the selected code words is indicative of a sequence of L binary bits, and the selected code words have fewer contiguous zero bits and contiguous one bits per code word on the average than do the code words of the full code word set excluding the selected code words.

64. (Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the selected code words consist of seventeen different TMDS code words, including at least one TMDS code word used only as a guard band word.

65. (Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the selected code words consist of seventeen different, transition-minimized TMDS code words, including at least one transition-minimized TMDS code word used only as a guard band word.

73. (Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein each of the selected code words is indicative of a sequence of L binary bits, and the selected code words have fewer contiguous zero bits and contiguous one bits per code word on the average than do the code words of the full code word set excluding the selected code words.

Add the following new claims:

76. (New) The system of claim 27, wherein the transmitter is also coupled to receive control bits, configured to generate bursts of encoded control words by encoding the control bits, and configured to transmit to the receiver over the serial link a first burst of the encoded control words between the first burst of the video code words and the bursts of the selected code words, and a second burst of the encoded control words between the bursts of the selected code words and the second burst of the video code words.

77. (New) The system of claim 76, wherein the selected code words include at least one guard band word, a first one of the bursts of the selected code words has an initial word, and the initial word is the guard band word.

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78. (New) The system of claim 76, wherein the selected code words include at least one guard band word, a first one of the bursts of the selected code words has an initial set of words, and each word of the initial set of words is one said guard band word.

79. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the input data are auxiliary data, and also including the steps of:

generating a sequence of video code words by encoding video data; and

transmitting over the link a first burst of the video code words followed by a burst of the selected code words followed by a second burst of the video code words, wherein each of the video code words is a member of the full code word set and at least one of the video code words is not a member of the robust subset.

80. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the input data are auxiliary data, and also including the steps of:

generating a sequence of video code words by encoding video data; and

transmitting over the link a first burst of the video code words followed by at least two bursts of the selected code words followed by a second burst of the video code words, wherein each of the video code words is a member of the full code word set and at least one of the video code words is not a member of the robust subset.